

CRIMINAL JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
November 18, 2009

Board Members Present: Chairperson Ann McKown, Secretary Gayle Harris, Public Health; Carolyn Titus, Deputy County Manager; Nina Bullock, Member At Large; Tommy Perry, Probation Designee; Deborah Schwartz, Member At Large; Antoinette Hilliard, Public Defender's Office; Jim Bjurstrom, Police Department Designee; Marcia Owen, Victim Services

Board Members Absent: Vice Chair Kenneth Titus; Ellen Holliman, Mental Health; David Saacks, District Attorney; Mike Andrews, Office of the Sheriff Designee; DeWarren Langley, Member At Large; John Fitzpatrick, Criminal Defense Attorney; Ellen Reckhow, Durham County Commissioner; Lao Rubert, Member At Large

Staff: Gudrun Parmer, Robin Heath, Jonie Coss, Clifton White

Guests: Conrad Strader, Community Corrections Division II; Robert Robinson, Durham Center

Introductions: Chairperson Ann McKown welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. She introduced two new members, Tommy Perry, Division of Community Corrections and Jim Bjurstrom, Durham Police Department. Members and guests introduced themselves.

Minutes: August 19, 2009 minutes were presented for approval. Minutes approved without corrections.

CJRC Program Update: Gudrun presented a program update, beginning with the final approved budget for CJPP funds. She stated there was a slight increase of almost 800 dollars from last year's budget and due to the increase, several budget adjustments were made in the personnel and contractual line. She briefly explained those changes. Gudrun commented this was the first time in years that CJRC received an increase.

Robin Heath presented the CJPP Local Program Self-Assessment of Goals and Objectives for FY 08-09. She reviewed the four program goals: reduction in recidivism, reduction in drug dependencies, increase employability, and reduction in probation revocations. She explained that for each program goal there was at least one measurable objective and outcome. Robin pointed out several positive results that included an increase in successful completions and an increase in program graduates who either obtained or maintained employment during their program participation. Gudrun pointed out this year's numbers in employability would likely decrease due to the economic conditions. Robin completed her report by highlighting the rest of the measurable objectives and corresponding outcomes. Gudrun pointed out additional information was included on the back of the report.

Gudrun made several CJRC announcements, beginning with the assignment of a new DRC officer, Todd Tronzo, who began in September.

Gudrun stated that the Community Based Correction Plan Update had been presented to the Board of County Commissioners on November 2, 2009. She reported the Commissioners focused mostly their discussions on the sections about gang-involved offenders and mentally ill offenders. Gudrun explained now that the Board of County Commissioners had received the update, the CJPAB could focus on those issues in the next few years. Judge McKown voiced her concern about accessing services provided to the

mentally ill offenders. She was hoping an ad hoc committee could be formed to brainstorm those services and how the courts could access the system faster. Rob Robinson stated that The Durham Center had been discussing ways to get that information out to the public and the court system.

Gudrun announced the construction bid opening was held in the County Commissioners' chambers for CJRC's renovation. She stated the architect would review the bids and once the lowest bid was verified, it would go BOCC for approval in December. She added construction could start as early as January.

Gudrun reminded the group about two temporary positions within the CJRC's budget set aside for CJRC graduates. These positions were geared towards helping clients gain valuable work experience and allow them to show a responsible track record of employment. She announced that one of the positions was assigned to the General Services Department and the most recent placement had been hired in a regular full-time position. In addition, the second temporary position had been re-classified as a Case Management Aide at CJRC, that position had been filled recently. She gave a brief summary on what that position would be doing to help relieve the workload of Case Managers.

Gudrun announced that the Department of Correction (DOC) had received a new federal grant, the "Offender, Employment and Training Initiative" and Durham had been selected to be part of the initiative. DOC was in the process of hiring an Employment Specialist, whose office would be located at CJRC. She added that the Employment Specialist would be connected to Job Link and a resource to offenders on probation and parole. This was also an excellent opportunity for CJRC to use this additional resource for CJRC clients.

Gudrun reported on the 'Homeless Connect' event held at the old Durham Ball Park in October. She stated the CJRC attended the event and provided employment services to the homeless. In addition, a CJRC intern from NCCU organized a coat drive and handed the donated coats out at the event.

Gudrun also mentioned that CJRC's employment program was working very closely with the Durham Economic Resource Center (DERC) and CJRC clients were referred on a regular basis. Robin provided a synopsis of what services DERC provided to CJRC clients.

Gudrun concluded her announcements by summarizing on the CJRC monthly report.

FY 2007 Recidivism Report: Gudrun presented the 2007 Recidivism report to the board. She stated the report was completed every fiscal year and included all clients admitted to the Community Based Corrections Programs in FY 06/07. CJRC reviewed the clients' arrest history one year after the clients' closing date. Gudrun added Jo Iverson and Alison Dawe worked together in compiling the data to complete the report. She stated that with Alison's fresh eyes they were able to add several new items to the report. Gudrun reported on each section of the report, which included client demographics, services provided, one-year recidivism outcome, prior and post arrest study, and conviction rates on new charges. Gudrun pointed out that conviction rates on new charges were very interesting, and something that CJRC had looked at for the first time. She reported of the 172 felony charges, 31% resulted in a guilty verdict and 52% were voluntarily dismissed; of the 212 misdemeanor charges, 39% resulted in a guilty verdict, and 45% were voluntarily dismissed. Gudrun admitted she was not sure what those results meant; however, she wondered if these numbers were typical. There was discussion on the outcome percentages on the voluntarily dismissed cases and the possibility as to why they were dismissed. Some of the possible reasons included uncooperative victims, old cases with un-served warrants, and plea agreements. Gudrun concluded her report by summarizing the arrest data/recidivism for each program, including the risk factors of those clients. She mentioned the report would be posted to CJRC's website.

Pretrial Services Program Updates: Clifton White, Pretrial Services Supervisor, provided an update on the Pretrial Services Program. Clifton stated there were two components to the program: first appearance preparation and pretrial release supervision. Clifton explained each defendant's background information

was gathered and compiled on a first appearance summary that was presented to the judge at the defendant's court hearing. Clifton added this information assisted the district court judges to see the overall criminal history of the offender and helps them make sound and appropriate decisions regarding the defendant's release. Judge McKown was very appreciative for the information Pretrial Services provided, given that in years past the judges had no prior information to review. Clifton stated the second component to the program was pretrial release supervision. Clifton stated defendants on supervised release might also be under special conditions such as electronic monitoring, house arrest, substance abuse treatment, CBI, GED, employment service and drug screens. Clifton explained that prior to the defendant's first appearance court hearing, Pretrial staff conducted screenings of defendants to determine who may be eligible for supervised release. He stated staff was also available for screening anytime during the defendant's court process. Clifton advised the board that the referrals for screening came from district and superior court judges, defense attorneys, and the district attorney's office. He also mentioned Pretrial Services collaborated with Health Services and Mental Health Services within the jail. Clifton highlighted some of the numbers for Pretrial Services, which included a completion rate of 75%, compared to 68% last year, the Failure to Appear (FTA) rate was at 2%. 80% of the releases had been charged with felonies and 20% had misdemeanor charges. Clifton mentioned Pretrial Services planned to implement a risk assessment tool to help interview every defendant. At this time, Pretrial Services was limited to interviewing defendants charged with H and I felonies, and most misdemeanors cases. Clifton completed his update by stating that Pretrial Services did not deal with domestic violence cases, driving while impaired, or child support cases. Gudrun added the criteria for charge eligibility was established when Pretrial Services started and had been adjusted slightly as the program matured. She explained that Pretrial Services had two purposes, to ease jail overcrowding and to make sure those under pretrial supervision showed up for their court date. Several board members commended the Pretrial staff for the service they provide and the additional services that the CJRC provided to the Pretrial defendants.

News and Announcements: Gudrun announced that the Onesiphours Prison Ministry of First Baptist Church would be hosting a Community Prison Summit, Saturday, November 21, 2009 from 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. The event would take place at First Calvary Baptist Church.

Gudrun suggested that Rob Robinson make a presentation at the next CJPP meeting on how to access services, instead of forming the ad hoc committee at this time. She thought it may be better to receive the information before creating a committee. The board agreed with Gudrun, and Rob will prepare a presentation for the next board meeting.

Gudrun requested the board to think about the sex offender treatment issues Durham was facing, especially the gap in services available to sex offenders. She stated that CJRC was exploring the possibility of adding a sex offender treatment program. She would like to find out how interested the board was to look at this issue and what could be done community-wide.

Next CJPP Advisory Board Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, February 17, 2010, 1:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM.